

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /136 W

----- 034805

R 271951 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4124

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04475

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGO: PDEV, VS, GW

SUBJECT, GERMAN HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIET CONG

REF: SAIGON 4896

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 27, FONOFF
SOUTHEAST ASIA DIRECTOR BERENDONCK CONCEDED THAT
FONOFF HAD USED AN " UNFORTUNATE FORMULATION" IN CABLE
TO FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS WHICH STATED THAT 60,000 MARKS
HAD BEEN ALLOTTED FOR AID TO " VIET CONG". BERENDONCK
SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION TO EQUATE
" VIET CONG" WITH GVN OR DRV.

2. BERENDONCK PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND.
HUMANITARIAN AID IS TO BE DISTRIBUTED ALMOST ENTIRELY
THROUGH EXISTING PRIVATE OR SEMI- PRIVATE CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS CARITAS AND DIAKONISCHES HILFSWERK.
ONE SUCH ORGANIZATION, " FRIEDENSDORF
OBERHAUSEN", WHICH HAS BEEN PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH
BRINGING MAIMED VIETNAMESE CHILDREN TO GERMANY
FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, HAS PRODUCED AN OFFSHOOT CALLED
" GESAMTVERBAND FRIEDENSDORF" WHICH HAS SET ITSELF THE
TASK OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE AREAS OF SOUTH VIET-
NAM CONTROLLED BY THE VIET CONG. IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE
DRV EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, THIS LAST NAMED CHARITABLE
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ORGANIZATION AGREED TO PROVIDE A MOBILE HOSPITAL AT A COST OF ABOUT 750,000 MARKS, ALL OF IT FUNDED BY PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH ARE THE MAIN SOURCE OF THE ORGANIZATION'S REVENUES. HOWEVER, GESAMTVERBAND FRIEDENSDORF DID HE ALSO ARGUED THAT INCLUDING SWISS PROPOSAL IN SUB-COMMITTEE ON PRINCIPLES WOULD HELP ALLIES AVOID LINKING IT WITH OTHER ELEMENTS MENTIONED BY SOVIETS, SUCH AS ALTERING INTERNAL LEGISLATION AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. NETHERLANDS REP ADDED THAT MENDELEVICH HAD INDICATED THAT SOVIETS COULD AGREE TO INCLUDING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES IN SUB-COMMITTEE ON PRINCIPLES. BELGIAN AND LUXEMBOURG REPS SUPPORTED DUTCH POSITION. ON OTHER HAND, UK REP SAID LONDON SAW ADVANTAGE IN SEPARATE SUB-COMMITTEE, PARTICULARLY IF SWISS PREFERRED THIS ARRANGEMENT. ITALIAN REP SUPPORTED UK POSITION. OTHER DELEGATIONS EITHER HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS OR SAID THEIR AUTHORITIES HAD NOT REACHED DECISION ON QUESTION. (COMMENT: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON THIS POINT. END COMMENT.)

3. THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS TO US TEXT AND MOST DELEGATIONS SAID THEY COULD SUPPORT IT, ALBEIT WITHOUT GREAT ENTHUSIASM. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, STRONG SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN SUGGESTION THAT ALLIES SHOULD GIVE GENERAL APPROVAL TO SWISS PROPOSAL AND ALLOW SOVIETS TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS OR OPPOSE IT. CANADIANS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF ALLIES AGREED ON REVISED LANGUAGE, SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED BY US, THEY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO SELL IT TO SWISS IN HOPE THAT SWISS WOULD TABLE IT, RATHER THAN HAVING IT TABLED BY ALLIED DELEGATION. (COMMENT: GENERAL POSITION IN COMMITTEE WAS VERY CLOSE TO THAT PROPOSED IN HELSINKI 761. WE AGREE WITH USDEL MPT THAT ALLIES SHOULD AT THIS POINT REFRAIN FROM PROPOSING CHANGES IN SWISS MANDATE AND KEEP REVISED US LANGUAGE IN RESERVE. END COMMENT.)

4. FRG REP SAID HE HAD REPORT FROM FRG MPT DELEGATION TO EFFECT THAT SWISS HAD DECIDED NOT TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR PARA 2 OF THEIR MANDATE FOR AGENDA ITEM I, WHICH PROPOSES SYSTEM FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. HE ASKED WHETHER OTHER

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DELEGATIONS HAD SIMILAR REPORTS. NONE DID. (COMMENT: DOES USDEL MPT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS POINT? END COMMENT.)

5. SUBJECT WILL REMAIN ON SPC AGENDA PENDING INDICATION FROM TURKS AS TO WHETHER ANKARA COULD ACCEPT INCLUSION OF SWISS

PROPOSAL UNDER ITEM I.

RUMSFELD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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